

Hartman, Patty

From: Rebecca Barger <rebeccaannebarger@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2013 10:24 AM
To: Hartman, Patty
Cc: Jim Larson
Subject: Teamsters Local Union 190 - Urges you to vote NO on HB 30

Dear Representatives,

On behalf of members of Local 190 of the Teamsters Union, I have been asked to inform you on a very serious issue that you will be voting on. Our local represents workers from many different trades throughout the state. Public employees, UPS, PPL Montana, Allied Waste Services, General Construction, ABF, school bus drivers and Pepsi are just a few of the organizations that depend on us to represent them. While we work specifically with workers on labor issues, we also take notice to bills that infringe on their right to vote.

Our concern relates to House Bill 30, introduced by Representative Washburn and is currently pending in your committee. This bill would eliminate election day voter registration, and would establish that last day to register to vote to be the Friday before the election, shutting thousands of voters out of the democratic process.

We believe that this piece of legislation is focusing on a problem that does not exist. In Billings, we had an incredible turn out of voters who stood in line for four hours or more. This act should be applauded not scrutinized, those voters should be looked at as heroes not lazy procrastinators. While we understand the concern that long lines discourage electors from voting, we believe that it is an ill conceived ideology that late registrants were the problem. You have heard testimony from Bill Kennedy, Yellowstone County Commissioner, that blatantly states that the problem consisted of the voting location, and not enough staff. We should be urging solutions to those problems, not attacking our citizens, your constituents, constitutional right to vote.

While you and I may consider being registered to vote on time a top priority. Some people consider it to be last on their laundry list of things to do. From working multiple jobs, childcare, and putting dinner on the table for their family, having time to vote on election day is a luxury for some. More than 28,000 Montanans took advantage of this process, I urge you to consider hard working Montanans that may have just forgotten, or mistakenly had to register on election day due to life's struggles. It is not your job to make it harder to vote, as Representatives your job is to make it easier.

For these reason Teamsters Local 190 urges you to vote NO on HB 30.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Barger
Teamster Local Union 190
Lobbyist
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